

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation and I'm frightened and angered by it. At the very least, they should be required to air an anti-Bush piece following it, so that the "reporting" is balanced.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. This anti-Kerry is a free service to George Bush and the Republican Party. When large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy, which is fair and balanced coverage. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.